

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. The Baku Gosbank
2. Conditions in Forced Labor Camp
385/1, Mordovskaya ASSR

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A five-page report on the Baku Gosbank, dated 1945, and a five-page report on conditions in Forced Labor Camp 385/1, near Potma, Mordovskaya ASSR, dated 1954

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[redacted]

WHITEHEAD woman was allegedly kidnapped in Moscow and taken to the camp. 50X1-HUM

There were quite a number of other women whose names [redacted] does not remember. [redacted] heard rumors that there was one girl, originally arrested for association with foreigners, who was released at the time of the amnesty, but later returned to the camp. [redacted] does not know the reason for this girl's second arrest, nor her name. 50X1-HUM

3. During the five and one-half years [redacted] spent in Camp 385/1, there was not much fluctuation in the number of prisoners. Transfers of various groups from one camp to another occurred quite often, but the total number in 385/1 remained constantly around 2,000. 50X1-HUM

[redacted]

underwear and garment factory operated by the camp. Army underwear and uniforms were manufactured there. A proximately 1,000 women worked in that factory which consisted of three shops (tsekh): Work was done by two 12-hour (later 8-hour) shifts a day. Daily production norms were very high and practically impossible to fulfill. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] of 70 women, only four were able to fulfill the norms. [redacted] unable to specify the daily norms since the factory used the conveyor-work system--each worker performing only one type of work on any item of clothing. 50X1-HUM

Job training in this factory lasted 21 days, during which period no norm fulfillment was required. Work was supervised by selected prisoner-foremen and hired free laborers. Guards remained outside the factory buildings.

5. Another large group of prisoners, several hundred, worked in the forest cutting timber. There was also a camp sovhoz where [redacted] prisoners worked producing potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, and cucumbers. The entire produce of the sovhoz was used exclusively for administrative 50X1-HUM

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personnel, guards, and free workers.

6. The guard unit was approximately 200 men strong. Their uniforms were olive drab and they wore blue shoulder boards. The guards treated the prisoners very harshly. Every infraction of camp discipline by prisoners reported by guards was punished by solitary confinement and reduction of the daily bread ration from 600 to 300 grams and the return of their food parcels to the senders. [] does not know even approximately the number of camp administrative personnel. A limited number of prisoners worked inside the camp on jobs such as in the kitchen, laundry, bath house, supply rooms and others.

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7. Except for two barracks for takhanovites (rekordisty), those fulfilling two and one-half times the norms established in 1955 when norms were considerably lower, which had regular beds, all other barracks in the camp were equipped with plank beds and each barrack housed 20 prisoners. Each prisoner was issued a thin mattress, one blanket, and one pillow. No bed sheets or pillows were supplied. The daily food ration consisted of 600 grams of black bread, cabbage soup twice daily, and a bowl of some gruel once a day. Non-fulfillment of the daily production norms was punished by the reduction of the bread ration to 300 grams. [] no information pertaining to camp food warehouses, available supplies, their protection and transport.

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8. No wages were paid to prisoners for work performed until 1951. From 1951 on wages were paid and [] received 50 to 70 rubles monthly, depending on the amount of work performed. [] no information on the amount of wages deducted by the camp administration.

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9. A large number of prisoners became ill because of the cold climate, insufficient food, and hard work. The most common disease in the camp was TB, of which there were six to seven serious cases every week. (On the average, about 300 women prisoners in Camp 385/1 died every year of TB. Only acute TB cases (otkrytaya forma tuberkuleza) were accepted by the hospital, and very seldom did any of such patients completely recover. The main TB treatment in the camp hospital was giving the patient calcium. The camp hospital was referred to as TsLT (not known for what this abbreviation stands) and it was located in Pot'na at the 9th lagpunkt. After three to six months of the calcium treatment, patients were normally returned to camp to perform light work in the open, usually in the camp sovkhos, in stables, and similar places. However, this work was even too heavy for many such prisoners and normally resulted in the recurrence of TB, at which time the patients were returned to TsLT to die.

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the prisoner medical doctors who worked in the camp hospital on their efforts to save the patients and to help them in any way they could.

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These doctors were:

a. Professor (fnu) SHEFIR, MD, a woman TB specialist from Moscow who was arrested (as rumored) in connection with the death of Maxim Gor'kiy. She was allegedly released in 1954.

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b. Professor (fnu) LITVA, MD, a specialist, allegedly released in 1953.

c. (fnu) FLEDER, MD, a specialist, allegedly released as a citizen. Still in the camp in 1955.

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Also in the camp was a woman medical doctor by the name of (fnu) FREUDENBERG from who had allegedly been kidnapped by the

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[redacted] [redacted]

Soviets and brought to the camp. She was not permitted to work in the hospital, and was still in the camp in 1955. She used to receive parcels from [redacted] in which were large quantities of medicaments which she always donated to the camp hospital.

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10. Prisoners were never permitted to leave the camp enclosure. [redacted] does not know whether or not the local residents were mainly ex-prisoners. Free workers and some of the foremen who worked in the garment factory were almost exclusively Moldavians, rough and uncultured people, who had an unfriendly attitude toward prisoners. [redacted] does not know what the relationship was between these people and the guards, nor whether they reported prisoner escape cases to the guards. There were several such cases.

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[redacted]

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11. Transfers from one camp to another were made up by train in open cars. Approximately 40 prisoners were put in a car. The cars were guarded from the outside, and no guards were inside them. [redacted] that when prisoners were transferred, some guards were on the front car roof. However this was not done when women were transported.

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A. THE BAKU GOSBANK:

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1. [redacted] knowledge on the organization of the Gosbank in Baku is sketchy. [redacted] the main office of the Azerbaijanian Gosbank was located in Baku on the corner of Ul. Bol'shaya Morskaya and Pleshchad' Svobody. No information on the internal organization of this bank nor on its position in relation to the USSR Gosbank is available. In addition to the main office of the Gosbank, there were quite a number of rayon Gosbank offices in Baku. Almost every city and rural rayon had a small Gosbank office. The main function of these offices was the granting of loans to State and collective enterprises.

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2. [redacted]

was organized as follows:

- a. Manager (Upravlyayushchiy)
- b. Credit Inspector (Kreditnyy Inspektor)

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- [REDACTED]
- c. Chief Accountant (Glavnyy Bukhgalter)
 - d. Bookkeeper-Accountant (Schetovod Bukhgalter)
 - e. Three operational accountants (bukhgalter operatsionisty)

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The Chief Accountant was actually the only person in the bank who approved loans. Officially though, it was the bank manager or his deputy, the credit inspector, who did so. In no case, however, did they approve a loan without the consent of the chief accountant. The basic criterion for approval of loans was the state of the account of the respective enterprise. If the enterprise had a debit account, the loan was not granted. However, there were some exceptions to this basic rule, and sometimes an enterprise with an overdrawn account was granted a loan. This was always done with the authorization of the main office of the Baku Gosbank. On the average, every enterprise in the same rayon as the rayon bank [REDACTED] applied for a loan twice a month. This was necessary because of the established system of paying wages to enterprise personnel twice a month: The advance pay (avans)--an amount less than 50% of the average monthly wage--was paid at the end of the first half of each calendar month. The salary (poluchka)--full monthly wage less the advance already paid--was paid at the beginning of the following month for work performed the last month. In addition to wages, enterprises also had other operational expenses such as procurement of raw materials, semi-finished products for enterprise operation, and others, the purchase of which also required loans from the bank. Therefore, there were cases when certain enterprises had to apply for loans as often as twice weekly. To get a loan on an overdrawn account required considerable persuasion on the part of the enterprise manager and cashier. The operational accountants were responsible for filing of approved loan applications and

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[redacted] accounting. [redacted] not remember any of the details connected with this work since this was almost 12 years ago [redacted]

[redacted] The responsibilities and duties of the remaining bank employees are unknown [redacted]

3. Enterprises requesting loans had to fill out special forms. Source does not remember much about the contents of these forms, but knows they contained the name of the enterprise requesting the loan, purpose of the loan, status of the enterprise's bank account, and signatures of the enterprise manager and chief accountant. Whenever a loan was approved, a statement to that effect was made on the form and it was also signed by the bank manager and chief accountant. This approval was referred to as a "resolution," and was usually handwritten across the loan application form. After that the approved loan application form was taken by an enterprise representative, usually the cashier, to one of the bank's operational accountants who filled the approved loan application and entered it into the bank accounting books. At the same time, the operational accountant obtained a check for the amount of the approved loan from the enterprise representative. As far as source remembers, all checks of Baku enterprises were on a single type of paper, was pale blue with white edges. Every check was consecutively numbered, and the name of the enterprise, number of checkbook, and date executed was on each one. Also on each was the statement that the enterprise was approved for the loan and so many rubles for [redacted] bank and signatures of the enterprise manager and cashier. The operational accountant who received such a check with an approved loan application form entered the data on the check in an account book and [redacted]

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[redacted]

approved application and check to the chief accountant.

[redacted]

checks. Whenever a loan was disapproved, the application form was simply returned to the loan applicant and no written "resolution" was made on it. 50X1-HUM

[redacted]

4. Quarterly and annual reports (kvartal'nyy i godovoy otchet) were prepared by the rayon Gosbank and submitted to the main office of the Azerbaijanian Gosbank. These reports were comprised mainly from equivalent reports made by subordinate enterprises. The reports prepared by the subordinate enterprises had to explain in great detail the utilization of all loans received and all expenditures. [redacted] never saw any of these reports and does not know whether or not they were accompanied by bills, invoices, and payrolls of the respective enterprises. [redacted] never participated in the preparation of reports to the main Gosbank office and has no information on their contents or preparation procedures. 50X1-HUM

5. [redacted] does not have any information on bookkeeping procedures relating to Armed Forces' financing nor on organizations, besides the Ministry of Defense, involved in this financing. 50X1-HUM

B. General Questions on the Soviet Budget:

1. [redacted] does not possess any information on the purpose for which appropriations were made to foreign trade organizations in the part of the budget referred to as financing of national economy. 50X1-HUM

2. [redacted] does not know what budget items were included in the residual section of the Soviet national economy. 50X1-HUM

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

has no information on subject services procedures in the

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any bank loans made to the budget during the war.

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[REDACTED]